

**State of Louisiana  
Department of Public Safety and Corrections  
Office of the Secretary**

**A Message from the Secretary**

Prisons are complex operations. Security considerations underlie everything. Security, however, involves more than fences, barbed wire coils, gates, and keys. Security includes an environment where inmates are occupied constructively during waking hours and have access to educational, recreational, and faith-based programming and the opportunity to be involved in groups that focus on issues like substance abuse, anger management, parenting skills, and victim awareness. These offer offenders skills and attitudes that will help them return successfully to their communities and remain there crime free.

A lot of people form their ideas about prisons from fictionalized accounts they see on television. Local media reports can help bring the picture into better focus, but the coverage is limited by time and space restrictions and short-term public interest.

This booklet is an effort to describe basic policies and practices followed in the prison system. Our intent is to answer the questions that persons outside the system often raise and move beyond generic television images to the realities in Louisiana.

The Department has approximately 6200 employees, 82 percent of whom work directly in the state prisons. Support staff in the institutions (classification, medical and mental health, clerical, for example) generally work 8-hour shifts, five days a week. Most correctional officers work 12-hour rotating shifts. Wardens and other key administrative staff are on-call around the clock. The information provided on the following pages will help you understand more about the challenges faced and contributions made by these people, one of the hardest working segments of state government.

We appreciate your interest.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Stalder  
Secretary

**Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections**  
**Corrections Services**

**Mission**

To provide for the custody, control, care, and treatment of adjudicated offenders through enforcement of laws and management of programs designed to insure the safety of the public, staff, and inmates and to reintegrate offenders into society.

**Goals by Priority**

1. Public Safety: Maximize public safety through appropriate and effective correctional custodial programs, supervisory services, and community corrections partnerships.
2. Staff and Inmate Safety: Provide for the safety of correctional staff and inmates by maintaining an organized and disciplined system of operations that promotes stability in institutional and field operations.
3. Provision of Basic Services: Provide appropriate services for victims of crimes committed by those offenders in our custody or under our supervision; and insure that basic services relating to adequate food, clothing, health care, and shelter are provided to the inmate population.
4. Opportunity for Change: Provide an environment which enables positive behavior change by making or identifying educational and rehabilitative opportunities available within the unit or the community for inmates and persons under supervision who demonstrate motivation for change and the desire to participate in such programs; and enhance public safety and crime prevention by increasing the ability of offenders to live lawfully in the community.
5. Opportunity for Making Amends: Provide opportunities for making restitution and participating in community restorative initiatives as a mechanism to compensate individuals and communities harmed by crime.

### **A Short Story About Resourcefulness, Courage, and Two Hurricanes**

In the days leading up to and following passage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Department pursued its mission, sometimes in ways no one would have thought possible.

The Department began evacuation of inmates from parish jails in the path of the Category 5 Hurricane Katrina on August 27, 2005, and moved nearly 900 inmates prior to her arrival. Katrina made landfall early on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup>. Late that evening authorities from Jefferson and Orleans Parishes contacted us for help in evacuating and housing their inmates and the St. Bernard Parish Prison evacuees, now in Orleans.

Jefferson's 1100 inmates were rescued in less than 24 hours. Because the Orleans Parish complex was already flooded, however, buses and vans were useless, and small boats had to be used to transport inmates from the flooded prison to a dry section of Interstate 10. Under scrutiny from armed correctional officers and probation and parole officers, inmates climbed an 8- by 50-foot scaffold to the roadway, and were loaded on waiting local, state, and federal prison buses. Despite rising waters, failed electrical systems, and a potentially volatile population, the entire Orleans evacuation took just under 72 hours.

As they were moved to safety, inmates received dry clothes, blankets, food, and water, and staff began building inmate records with little more to go on than details offered by inmates themselves. As vehicles and bedspace became available from unscarred parts of the state, inmates were moved on north.

Then on September 22, 2005, Hurricane Rita threatened devastation to the western side of Louisiana, and we again began evacuating parish jails. In a four-week period, in partnership with law enforcement agencies throughout the state, we successfully relocated 10,560 sentenced and unsentenced local, state, and federal inmates to safety. Further, because Katrina left New Orleans without a place to put post-storm law breakers, we constructed and helped staff a temporary booking, holding, and detention facility at the Amtrak station there. It was operational by Saturday, September 3.

Underlying the broad events recounted above are hundreds of other stories of individual courage, integrity, and selflessness. All of the Department's 6200 employees contributed somehow to the massive effort to evacuate, identify, classify, and secure displaced inmates. Uncertain in many instances of the status of their own homes and loved ones, they nevertheless stood their posts and honored their professional commitments. This is who we are. This is what we do.



**Inside the System:**

**How Inmates Live and Work**

## **Reentry Programming**

In Louisiana and across the nation, recidivism rates for adult offenders released from incarceration average approximately fifty per cent after five years. Recidivism numbers collected by the Department, however, indicate that program participation seems to result in a lower rate of return.

In 2004 the Department established an Office of Reentry to promote public safety strategies intended to reduce recidivism and, consequently, reduce victimization and lower the size and cost of the state correctional system. The Department has developed a continuum of agency- and community-based services and programmatic interventions for incarcerated offenders and offenders under community supervision. Beginning with the initial period of probation supervision or institutional reception and extending into any subsequent period of parole supervision, staff assess, identify, and link offenders with services and programs specific to their reentry needs and monitor their program adherence. Organizations and agencies from the community as well as individual community volunteers are cornerstones of the initiative.

The following pages present information about program opportunities and operational practices in the state prisons. All of them are directed toward increasing the likelihood that offenders will live successfully and lawfully in their communities upon release.

## **Housing**

Most adult inmates live in open dormitories that accommodate about 50 persons. Very few living areas are air conditioned; most are cooled the “old fashioned way” with windows and fans.

Safety considerations preclude much in the way of privacy. Shower nozzles, toilets, and urinals are located in basically open areas. While the main lights are turned off at a set time each night, the sleeping areas are never without light because officers must be able to monitor the dorms and make the required counts.

Inmates must keep their personal possessions and toiletries in two lockers, each about 2' by 3'. Department regulation and institutional policy define precisely which and how many items an inmate can have. Again, because of security concerns attached to items shipped from outside, most items that are not state issue must be purchased from the inmate canteens at the prisons.

Cells are reserved for inmates awaiting disciplinary hearings for prison rule violations and inmates whose disruptive prison behavior requires that they be

separated from the general population. Those assigned to “working cellblocks” live two to a cell and leave their cells to work in the fields.

Inmates who cannot safely be released to work live in single cells and remain there 23 hours a day. Death Row inmates also live in single cells.

### **Work**

A basic operational principle, enforced throughout the prison system, is that every inmate who is able to work does so. Inmates are required to get up and report to a specified site at a specific time. Failure to report timely can result in disciplinary action. These requirements keep inmates constructively busy for a significant portion of the day and force them to model behavior that will be expected when they return to the community.

Jobs performed by inmates vary from field work and facility clean-up and maintenance to skilled labor, tutoring, and inmate legal activities. Inmates with physical and/or mental health disabilities perform simpler tasks like dusting or shelling peas or pecans for use in the kitchen.

A survey included in the August 1998 Corrections Compendium newsletter reported that Louisiana is second among the 50 states and the District of Columbia with regard to the percentage of its inmates who work. Louisiana data reported in June 2005 indicate that 99.29 percent of the inmates who were able to hold a job had one. Almost all inmates excluded from work suffer from severe physical and/or mental disabilities or are housed in disciplinary segregation.

One challenge of hurricane-related budget reductions will be to develop new ways to continue this practice.

### **Educational Programming**

The Department provides formal educational programming in the areas of basic literacy, Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED), Job-Life Skills, and vocational training to state inmates who are motivated to take advantage of these opportunities and have demonstrated behavior that would enable them to function in an educational setting. These programs are taught by state-certified instructors and trained inmate tutors and are offered at no cost to the students.

Special School District #1 provides special education services to inmates who qualify. Most vocational programs are offered in partnership with the Louisiana Community and Technical College System. About 29.2 percent of state inmates participate as students and/or tutors in the education programs offered at the eleven state institutions.

### **Medical and Mental Health Care**

Inmates are constitutionally guaranteed basic medical and mental health care, and every institution has appropriately licensed staff on site and on call. Inmates requiring more than basic medical treatment are usually transported to a hospital in the LSU Health Sciences Center Health Care Services Division. Inmates requiring inpatient mental health care are generally treated within the institutional system, men at either Louisiana State Penitentiary or Elayn Hunt Correctional Center and women at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women.

In 1996 the Department began using telemedicine, a technology that applies interactive video and specialized diagnostic equipment to enable physicians at one location to examine patients at a different site. This practice allows immediate diagnostic assessment of inmates in a secure setting by physicians hundreds of miles away, reduces the number of inmates being transported to and present in public medical facilities, and provides savings by reducing transportation costs—fuel and overtime payments for security personnel.

In 1996 the Department instituted medical co-payments-- \$3 for a self-initiated request for medical, dental, or mental health services and \$2 for each new prescription written and dispensed (with the exception of psychotropic drugs and medications prescribed for public health purposes). No inmate is refused access to treatment or medicine because of inability to pay; costs for the services provided, however, are carried as a debt to the inmate's account.

Co-payments, instituted as a means of curtailing inmate abuse of sick call (claiming illness to avoid work), quickly relieved the system of artificial volume, thereby freeing medical staff to see inmates who need to be seen. The practice also models the system in place for most tax-payers.

### **Substance Abuse Programming**

Substance abuse coordinators and active Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous groups are part of the programming at all adult facilities. In June 2005 almost 39 percent of state prison inmates identified with substance abuse or dependency problems were enrolled in substance abuse programming.

Residential substance abuse programming has been available in the system since 1991, when the H. J. "Blue" Walters residential substance abuse treatment program was established at Dixon Correctional Institute. It was relocated to Orleans Parish Prison in August 2000 and is now referred to as "Blue Walters South." The name change occurred in 2004, when the Blue Walters program was expanded to include a second site in Tensas Parish, Blue Walters North, located at J. B. Evans Correctional Center in Newellton. In June 2004 Steve Hoyle Rehabilitation Center opened in Tallulah. It too targets inmates with a history of substance abuse. (Blue Walters South was eradicated by the passage of Hurricane Katrina. Reestablishing that program is not presently a realistic option.)



### **Sex Offender Programming**

Sex offenders cannot be housed at J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center. All other institutions have a sex offender treatment program, which includes counseling and group therapy under the guidance of institutional mental health staff. Inmate participation is encouraged but voluntary, with the exception of a small number of inmates who arrive with treatment mandates from a sentencing court. Data reported for June 2005 indicate that 21.7 percent of the sentenced sex offenders in state prisons were enrolled in sex offender programming.

### **Faith- and Character-Based Programming**

All adult institutions, except J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center (DCC), have at least one full-time chaplain to lead religious services and coordinate faith-based activities on institutional grounds. DCC has a part-time chaplain. Volunteers are at the heart of religious programming in all of the institutions. Every week hundreds of volunteers enter prison grounds to preach, teach, sing, and otherwise minister to the needs of the inmate population. They come as part of local congregations and representatives of prison outreach organizations like Prison Fellowship and Kairos.

Faith- and character-based dormitories were created at Dixon Correctional Institute and Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women, where participation is voluntary and open to all faith groups.

The nonprofit, ecumenical Louisiana Prison Chapel Foundation was formed in 2000 to raise funds to build or upgrade twenty-one interfaith chapels at Louisiana prisons. To date six new chapels have been constructed; funding has been assured for two more; fund raising efforts are underway for construction of a third.

Training and activities related to CHARACTER COUNTS!, a national program formulated by a nonpartisan, nonsectarian alliance of more than 200 nonprofit organizations, occur in all institutions. The national program developed as an effort to strengthen the character of America's young people by encouraging them to adopt a consistent set of ethical values, agreed upon by alliance members and referred to as the "Six Pillars of Character" (Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship).

### **Parenting and Other Programs to Support the Children of Inmates**

When the Department identified primary crime prevention as an appropriate part of its mission, it began to develop programming intended to help foster healthy, nourished, and nurtured children, who—all indicators suggest—will be less likely to become involved in violence, drop out of school, and/or use drugs. As part of this effort, a broadly uniform, 30-hour parenting skills curriculum is followed in all institutions. Participation is mandatory for inmates within a year of release. Course topics include neonatal and early childhood

development, the care of infants, playing with toddlers, modeling positive behavior, and appropriate discipline for all ages.

In 2004 the Department joined with the United Methodist Church of Louisiana to support its G.R.A.C.E. Camp, which provides the children of incarcerated parents a week-long adventure of fun and positive reinforcement. The Department is working with Forgiven Ministry, Inc., of North Carolina to host “One Day With God” camps in the institutions to bring together children and their incarcerated parents for a day of activities directed at strengthening family bonds.

### **Inmate Disciplinary Process**

All inmates entering the system are provided a copy of the *Disciplinary Rules and Procedures for Adult Inmates*. Alleged rule violations result in a formal hearing at which the accused can present a defense. Penalties are based on the seriousness of the offense and the inmate’s overall disciplinary record and include options ranging from reprimand and suspended imposition of penalties to loss of privileges, loss of good time, and/or change of job assignment, housing area, or custody status.

Escape can be penalized by loss of all good time credit earned up to the time of the escape. Battery on a department employee can result in the loss of up to 180 days of good time. Rule violations that are violations of law (e.g., escape, battery, aggravated fighting, sex offenses, contraband) are also referred to the appropriate district attorney for consideration and further action.

### **Drug Testing**

Because the use of illicit drugs by inmates presents a serious threat to safety and security, drug and alcohol testing is essential. Monthly, random screens are conducted on a minimum of five percent of each institution’s population. In addition, individual inmates or groups can be tested, and inmates returning from escorted absences, work details, or other events off institutional grounds may be ordered to submit to a urine screen. Refusal by an inmate to be tested will result in a contraband charge, because a refusal is deemed to be the same as a positive reading.

### **Privileges**

Maintaining family contacts is important to an inmate’s ability to adjust in prison and, eventually, to return successfully to a community. Access to telephones and visitation support this need.

The inmate telephone system is a toll system, which requires inmates’ relatives and friends to pay for calls. The Department in turn receives a commission from the vendor, and the monies are used for a variety of items and activities

that benefit the inmate population in general. Past abuses of the telephone system have been curtailed by requiring inmates to submit an approved caller list and then programming those numbers into the system so that they are the only ones a particular inmate can call. If an inmate circumvents the process and someone reports receiving unsolicited telephone calls, the Department will take additional steps (including disciplinary action) to halt the telephone calls.

Inmates submit the names of persons they would like to have visit them in prison. Before being approved for an inmate's visiting list, persons must complete a questionnaire and are screened for prior criminal history. If visitors violate institutional rules, they will lose visiting privileges for a period of time or even permanently.

Recreation is an important part of prison life. It diminishes idle time and enables inmates to expend energy. Various sports and recreational activities are available for inmates' free time. Weight lifting, once a competitive sport, has been reengineered to serve only as a wellness/fitness activity. Free weights have been replaced by fixed weights, and the maximum allowable weight is 100 pounds plus the weight of the bar.

Television is available after work hours and before lights out. Viewing is limited to local stations, educational channels, CNN, ESPN, and general programming stations like WGN, TNT, and Nickelodeon. Recreation equipment, cable access, and movie videos are paid for by funds generated primarily from telephone and canteen commissions.

### **Community Outreach**

For a very long time, inmate crews have been assigned to roadside and other kinds of maintenance and clean-up duties. During the 1990s the practice was formalized and made collaborative; it continued as Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco's Project Clean-Up, with roadside signs calling attention to "Offenders Working to Keep Our Communities Clean."

During a six-week period in 2005, for example, inmate crews on regularly scheduled litter details worked 27,443 man hours, covered 2240 miles along streets and highways, and collected 38,091 bags of trash. During the same period, public service crews worked an additional 9325 man hours, doing not only litter abatement, highway and grounds maintenance, and work at welcome centers but also less common activities-e.g., stuffing envelopes for charity, sorting food items at local food banks, removing Christmas lights, pouring cement, and moving furniture and equipment for governmental agencies.

As the result of budget tightening following passage of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, use of inmate crews has been scaled back significantly. In general, crews are available only as entities served are able to cover costs incurred (e.g., transportation and off-site security escort.)

Inmate organizations donate money and other services to groups and organizations in the community.

### **Work Release**

Depending upon institutional behavior and the crimes for which they are serving time, inmates can be assigned to work release from six to twenty-four months prior to their earliest possible release dates. Participation in work release has several significant impacts. It offers a transition between the regimentation of institutional living and the much greater freedom and responsibility of community supervision. Participating in work release also enables offenders to earn a wage and leave custody with some money. Five-year recidivism numbers indicate that inmates who transition from traditional incarceration through work release are less likely to return to prison than inmates in general.

### **The Don Francois Alternative Centers**

In 2004 in order to reduce the increasing cost of incarcerating offenders while continuing to provide safety for the community, the Department established two centers as alternatives to long-term incarceration—one in Concordia Parish and one in Orleans Parish. The centers serve three goals: (1) to create financial savings for the state by reducing the cost resulting from the long-term incarceration of technical probation and parole violators; (2) to provide a safe alternative to further incarceration for those suitable for program participation; and (3) to address the rehabilitation needs of offenders by providing additional, intensive substance abuse treatment, moral recondition therapy, anger management, and/or other suitable programs. (The Orleans Parish site is no longer operational. As resources allow, a second program will be reestablished, possibly at a different location.)

## **Classification—Where Inmates Serve Their Time**

### **In General**

When a court sentences an inmate to serve time “at hard labor,” that phrase places the offender under the authority of the state. Of the 37,281 inmates assigned to the Department on July 8, 2005, 19,583 were housed in state institutions or contract work release facilities; 17,698 were housed in local jurisdictions. Many in the latter group were serving their time in the parishes under formal and informal partnership agreements with local governments.

The distribution of state inmates among state and local facilities grows out of a “corrections coalition,” established by the Department and local authorities and directed toward making best use of prisoner beds at the state and the local levels so as to increase public safety, provide inmate labor to local governments, and optimize investment of funds spent on incarceration. These agreements work generally to assign the violent, incorrigible, special needs, and high-risk inmates to state facilities and the less violent and lower risk inmates to local facilities.

In keeping with these mutual commitments and the need to ensure equitable treatment of state inmates regardless of physical location, the Department and the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association developed a comprehensive set of Basic Jail Guidelines, which must be adhered to by all parish prisons and local jails as a condition of housing state inmates.

### **Classification Within the State System**

Inmates are initially classified and assigned to a state prison based on length of sentence, security risk, behavioral history, special medical or mental health needs, availability of bed space, and proximity to family.

Male inmates sentenced from the northern parishes generally enter the system through Wade Reception and Diagnostic Center (WRDC) at Martin L. Forcht, Jr., Clinical Treatment Unit, a satellite of David Wade Correctional Center. Male inmates sentenced from the southern parishes enter through Hunt Reception and Diagnostic Center (HRDC) at Elayn Hunt Correctional Center. Death Row inmates are transferred directly from the parish of sentencing to Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. The intake process requires on average two to three weeks; inmates awaiting bed space at Angola may remain in intake for a much longer period.

Male inmates sentenced to life and inmates with more than thirty years to their earliest possible release date are usually classified to Louisiana State Penitentiary. The severity of inmates’ medical and/or mental health needs, their behavior while incarcerated, and closeness to family also affect placement. Upon

request of State Police, inmates who meet certain classification criteria can be transferred to the minimum security State Police Barracks north of Baton Rouge. Inmates serving life sentences are among those housed at the Barracks.

If not otherwise prohibited by their crimes, inmates within seven years of release, who have appropriate behavior and good work records, are eligible for assignment to J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center, a minimum security facility on the grounds of Camp Beauregard National Guard installation. Depending upon their crimes and behavior, inmates may also become eligible for placement in work release during the last six to twenty-four months of their incarceration.

Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) at St. Gabriel is the only state prison for female inmates and, consequently, houses all security levels, including inmates under sentence of death. LCIW is site of the Female Reception and Diagnostic Center (FRDC). LCIW staff manage the records of all female felony offenders serving prison time, whether they are housed at LCIW or a local facility.

The term “custody level” applies to inmates. An inmate’s custody level determines type of housing, relative freedom of movement on facility grounds, and whether mechanical restraints are required for outside transport. There are three custody levels—maximum, medium, and minimum. Except for C. Paul Phelps Correctional Center and J. Levy Dabadie Correctional Center, all state institutions have designated bed space to house some number of maximum custody inmates (in addition to those being held in administrative segregation).

The term “security level” applies to institutions and refers to the physical characteristics of a facility’s perimeter, the type of building construction, and internal movement controls. Accordingly, all state facilities except the minimum-security Dabadie Correctional Center are categorized as multi-level security with the percentage of maximum custody beds ranging from 39 percent at David Wade Correctional Center and 29 percent at Louisiana State Penitentiary to 7.5 percent at Dixon Correctional Institute.

**The Institutions**

**Individual Snapshots**

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Information on the following pages describes programs and other initiatives in the state prisons. Much of the material, however, was compiled before Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ravaged infrastructure, dispersed impacted populations throughout the United States, and threatened the state's fiscal stability.

One immediate result of the hurricanes' devastation has been the long-term displacement of local, state, and federal inmates from parish facilities in the Greater New Orleans Area. In early November 2005 the number stood at just over 4,500; approximately 2,100 of those were housed in state facilities and another 2,400 in a number of local facilities outside the impacted area, plus a federal facility in Florida.

Consequently, designations of a state prison's "Operational Capacity" reflect the "old normal." The "new normal" is still being defined and will evolve as does the ability of local jurisdictions to reestablish safe correctional operations and provide access to the support structures and services that underlie them (e.g., adequate staff housing and emergency medical care for residents, including inmates). For now, suffice it to say, almost all state prisons are operating above earlier established caps.

The numbers are coming down slowly, as inmates reach their release dates, are released by the courts, or are returned to the areas from which they were evacuated.

The missions of some institutions are, at least temporarily, broader. For example, Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola is a facility for males. Currently, however, it is also site of a camp for female offenders evacuated from Orleans and Jefferson.

In addition to the usual population of sentenced felons at Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women and Elayn Hunt Correctional Center, administrators and staff there are also managing "arrestees": persons arrested in Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes since Hurricane Katrina passed. Law breakers are booked locally and transported to the state facilities pending further action by justice system authorities. By early December that number had reached 596.

Described on the following pages is the solid base from which the Department will continue to operate as we respond to a rapidly changed reality. Our operations have been impacted significantly; our commitment to make all decisions based on a concern for public safety and well-being is unchanged.

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**ALLEN CORRECTIONAL CENTER (ALC)**

3751 Lauderdale Woodyard Road

Kinder, LA 70648 (337) 639-2943

Warden: Terry Terrell

Opened: 1990

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1993

ALC houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1461

**Education at ALC:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education, GED preparation and GED study for maximum custody inmates.

Vocational Training includes Culinary Arts, Computerized Office Practices, Upholstery, and Cabinet Making.

During FY 2004-05, 12 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 74 students completed Adult Basic Education, 47 earned a GED, and 97 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

ALC is publically owned and privately managed by The GEO Group, Inc.

ALC officers help maintain the secure ward at the Huey P. Long Regional Medical Center in Pineville, where inmates are transported for scheduled appointments with medical specialists.

ALC offers Commitment to Change, an eleven-week program that “acts like a mirror.” Inmates first learn to identify errors in other people’s thinking and the consequences of those errors. Then participants begin to apply their insights to themselves. The program offers inmates believable models: persons whose life experiences resemble their own struggle to change.

In addition to offering basic substance abuse education and prevention opportunities, ALC collaborates in the “District Attorney’s Drug Abuse Pre-Intervention Program” for first-time youthful offenders and the “District Attorney’s Intervention Rap Session” for older offenders on the verge of imprisonment. In both programs carefully selected inmate peer trainers talk about the things offenders can face in prison.

ALC has developed an Incentive/Awards program to recognize inmates for completion of certain course offerings and group activities, progressive sobriety, and other significant accomplishments.

Other inmate programming includes anger management, sex offender treatment, group therapy, Character Counts, pre-release preparation/life skills, BARA (Being a Responsible Adult), Nurturing Fathers, Stress Management, and HIV/AIDS awareness classes.

**AVOYELLES CORRECTIONAL CENTER (AVC)**

1630 Prison Road  
Cottonport, LA 71327 (318) 876-2891  
Warden: Lynn Cooper

Opened: 1989

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1992

AVC houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1474

**Education at AVC:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Culinary Arts, Horticulture, Collision Repair, Automotive Technology, Diesel Technology, and Computer Refurbishing.

Inmates may also register for college correspondence courses at their own expense.

During FY 2004-05, 94 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 95 students completed Adult Basic Education, 34 earned a GED, and 129 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

AVC's Juvenile Awareness Program was developed at the request of area schools and churches as a way to encourage youth to consider the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse and criminal behavior and to reevaluate bad situations while change is still possible. The message is communicated primarily with skits performed by carefully selected inmates, who have been offered the opportunity to serve the community by serving its youth. A perimeter bus tour and a walking tour of a medium custody housing area are also part of the program.

C.E.R.T. (Citizens Emergency Response Team) is another reflection of AVC's commitment to surrounding communities. The teams consist of area residents who have agreed to be telephoned in the event of an escape from the prison and to pass the information to their neighbors. Team members are acknowledged annually with a luncheon and a facility tour. (The program is precautionary: AVC has never had an escape.)

Every Easter and Christmas AVC's inmate organizations—the Jaycees, the Amateur Officials Club, the Boxing Club, and Toastmasters—buy gifts for disadvantaged children in the Cottonport area. These clubs have made contributions in support of the elderly, the American Cancer Society, and back-to-school drives soliciting school supplies and clothes.

AVC's Bike Program is a collaborative effort with the Marksville Police Department and the Marksville Chamber of Commerce. Old bicycles and bicycle parts are sent to AVC. Inmates rebuild the damaged bikes and return them for donation to disadvantaged children in the community.

AVC's Brogan Shop developed when the cost of inmate brogans almost doubled. To help save state dollars, AVC began "recycling" worn footwear. AVC purchases shoe parts, and inmates reconstruct or repair old boots, converting them into footwear that is good looking and comfortable.

Under direct staff supervision, AVC inmates are trained and certified by the Alexandria chapter of the American Red Cross to provide HIV/AIDS and hepatitis education and counseling to the inmate population. Peer counselors, housed throughout the prison, handle new-inmate orientation and participate in prerelease preparation.

AVC's Youthful Offender program enables staff to assess and develop programming to meet the special educational, vocational, and social needs of inmates who are not yet twenty years of age.

Also available to inmates are smoking cessation classes, bereavement counseling, anger management, and AIDS counseling.

Inmates with excellent work and conduct records are eligible for outdoor picnic visits with up to four visitors. Visitors may bring in food and beverages from approved local vendors to prepare and eat with the inmate at the picnic site.

The Inmate Welfare Committee consists of inmate leaders who serve as liaison between the inmate population and the AVC administration. The group meets monthly to discuss issues and determine which will be presented to the administration for consideration. Once each quarter, the Warden, his administrative staff, and department heads attend these meetings to provide inmates an opportunity to ask questions and receive immediate feedback.

**DAVID WADE CORRECTIONAL CENTER (DWCC)**

670 Bell Hill Road

Homer, LA 71040 (318) 927-0400

Warden: Venetia Michael

Opened: 1980

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1992

DWCC houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1710

Education at DWCC (satellite units included):

Literacy, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Auto Mechanics, Carpentry, Horticulture, and Welding.

During FY 2004-05, 40 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 57 students completed Adult Basic Education, 64 earned a GED, and 163 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Special units:**

The N-5 Special Management Unit (the "Protection Unit") is a cell-block housing 50 inmates, a mix of former correctional officers and policemen, notorious offenders, and very young lifers. It offers a microcosm of regular institutional programming but is wholly separate from all other areas of the prison.

The Dr. Martin L. Forcht, Jr., Clinical Treatment Unit (FWCC) is a satellite facility located in the old Caddo Correctional Center near Shreveport. The 572-bed facility houses aged and infirm offenders from throughout the system and is also site of the north Louisiana IMPACT unit and the Wade Reception and Diagnostic Center (WRDC). Expansions currently underway will add a 50-bed skilled nursing unit and a new 80-bed dorm for IMPACT.

The Steve Hoyle Rehabilitation Center (SHRC), a satellite facility in Tallulah, has a capacity of 260 inmates. The unit is organized as a therapeutic community to house and treat offenders with multiple DWI convictions or other substance abuse histories. The intensive 12- to 24-month treatment program consists of multiple phases promoting behavior modification supported by reintegration, relapse prevention, and aftercare services.

**Program notes:**

DWCC security manages an eleven-bed prison ward at E. A. Conway Hospital in Monroe for state and parish jail inmates.

DWCC's Chase Team assists area law enforcement agencies by making available its bloodhounds and a certified drug detection dog. The Warden J. O. Whittington Firing Range, built by joint effort of DWCC and the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office, is used for firearms training for DWCC officers and area law enforcement.

Staff from FWCC and Shreveport Probation and Parole District arrange monthly aftercare meetings for IMPACT graduates. Meetings include representatives from the faith-based community, job providers, and health care advocates, as well as staff from the institution and the probation and parole district.

Inmate clubs are involved with crime prevention and service to the community both outside and inside the prison. Inmate speaker groups perform skits and talk with children from area schools, alternative schools, and juvenile group homes about making the right choices in life, saying "NO" to drugs and alcohol, and staying in school.

In recognition of National Crime Victims' Rights Week inmate organizations helped refurbish Homer City Park, planting trees and building picnic tables and park benches.

DWCC's Helper Group consists of about twenty inmates, trained through Philadelphia House and the American Red Cross to be peer counselors regarding HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Members of the group speak at new inmate orientation, offer one-on-one counseling, and host annual seminars with health care experts to provide current and accurate information and education regarding HIV and AIDS.

Over the last five years DWCC's Human Relations Club has raised \$2500 to benefit Habitat for Humanity through its annual fund raiser/walk-a-thon. Since 1999 inmates in the vocational carpentry class have helped to build twelve homes for Webster Habitat for Humanity.

Each month the Lifer's Organization assembles activity booklets for children who visit. Based on the six pillars of Character Counts, the books encourage positive interaction between children and the relatives they visit.

The DWCC and FWCC Vets Incarcerated II organizations promote, govern, and maintain the Literacy Program, which has helped more than 900 inmates increase basic reading skills during their spare time. About 25 percent of pro-

gram participants advance to the ABE/GED program. The FWCC chapter makes an annual donation to the Veterans' Hospital Fund for the Homeless.

DWCC's AA/NA program collects soft drink tabs, which are donated to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, to generate funds to assist with the costs families face while children are being treated at St. Jude.

The Kisatchie Jaycees, an institutional chapter of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, has a history of community service that includes food drives, charity fund raisers, park clean-ups, and support of programs for youth and the elderly. In 2004 the chapter surpassed the \$20,000 milestone for money raised to benefit children with Muscular Dystrophy. In 1998 the chapter received the Curtis Miller Memorial Award as best overall chapter in Louisiana, an award never before won by an institutional chapter. The group has also been honored as the top state and national institutional chapter on ten occasions.

The FWCC Toy Project began sixteen years ago as a community service project at DWCC. FWCC began assisting in 1999 and is now site of a collaborative effort involving community social service agencies, local businesses, and inmates who make wooden toys year round for distribution to children.

DWCC partners with the Ark-La-Tex Alternatives to Violence Program to offer an intensive workshop to teach conflict resolution techniques.

**DIXON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE (DCI)**

P. O. Box 788

Jackson, LA 70748 (225) 634-1200

Warden: James M. LeBlanc

Opened: 1976

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1993

DCI houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1340

**Education at DCI:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Electronics, Auto Mechanics, Auto Body and Fender Repair, Wakefield Meat Distribution Plant, and Horticulture.

During FY 2004-05, 69 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 20 students completed Adult Basic Education, 41 earned a GED, and 124 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Special units:**

The Dialysis Unit houses all male inmates in the state system who require care and treatment for end-stage renal disease. A dialysis clinic inside the secure perimeter serves these inmates, state inmates housed in local jails, and females from Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. This capability decreases security risks to the general public inherent in the transportation of inmates to "free world" dialysis treatment.

A Faith- and Character-Based Dorm (FCBD) became available to inmates of all faith groups during FY 04-05. The FCBD program embraced a range of religious traditions and values and sought to facilitate institutional adjustment, rehabilitation, community reintegration, and reduction of recidivism by building on that foundation. The FCBD closed following Hurricane Katrina because programming space was needed to house additional inmates. The hope is to reinstate the program, probably on a smaller scale, some time in 2006.

The Youthful Offender Program is housed in a 60-bed dorm. The 12-month program targets male offenders aged 19 years and younger with fewer than five years until earliest possible release and offenders aged 16 and under, regardless of sentence length. Staff assess educational needs, promote and encourage responsible behavior, and provide opportunities for self improvement through programs like sub-

stance abuse, parenting skills, and anger management. Housing young offenders apart from general population creates an environment where they can more easily develop self-esteem, self discipline, positive attitudes, and the cognitive skills necessary to reenter the community successfully.

The Bill Carville Training Facility opened June 2004 as the site for DCI's correctional officer training academy. New hires undergo an initial 40-hour orientation before beginning the 80-hour training academy program, which includes topics such as officer survival, restorative justice, social and cultural lifestyles of inmates, domestic violence awareness, counseling techniques, and firearms qualification.

**Program notes:**

DCI officers manage the secure ward at Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge.

DCI is part of the Department's Serious/Violent Offender Reentry Initiative (SVORI) pilot, created to support and enhance reentry programming in the institutions and after release to supervision. It targets offenders between the ages of 18 and 35 who have been convicted of serious and/or violent offenses and will release on Good Time Parole Supervision to the greater New Orleans area. Funding for this pilot will end in the spring of 2006. Information gained during its three years will inform reentry programming statewide.

Reentry-specific programming offered at DCI in support of SVORI includes (1) an annual community resource fair to help connect releasing offenders to available community resources, (2) quarterly visits from the Office of Motor Vehicles Mobile Unit to issue state identification cards to releasing offenders (and drivers' license renewal for employees), (3) portfolios containing resumes, certificates of accomplishments, identification cards, and a list of relevant community resources, and (4) discharge assessments for the Division of Probation and Parole depicting an offender's accomplishments and areas of concern.

Inmates assigned to DCI's Janitorial Service Program provide services for about two million square feet in 14 state buildings and maintain 140 acres of grounds in the Baton Rouge metropolitan area. The crews, working under contractual agreements, create a savings for the state of between \$2.4 and \$5.3 million each year.

DCI provides security and inmate workers for the Food Processing and Distribution Center at Wakefield, which processes about 80 percent of all beef and pork consumed by the Department's inmates. Costs are reduced as beef, pork, poultry, and fish are purchased in bulk and distributed to other state facilities.



DCI works with Prison Enterprises and the state's Office of Tourism to process envelopes and mail out Louisiana tourism pamphlets. At the Prison Enterprises embroidery operation, DCI inmates embroider shirts, hats, and uniform patches for agencies across the state.

PRIDE (Prisoner Rehabilitation through Integrity, Discipline, and Education) is an organization for inmates who demonstrate good citizenship, good moral character, and good conduct. PRIDE membership requires inmates to be one year without a disciplinary write-up and affords them extra privileges such as extended visiting hours and television and recreation room hours and attendance at special institutional events.

The DCI chapter of Veterans Incarcerated, open to any inmate who has served in the U.S. armed forces, provides services for veterans, raises funds for charitable causes, and strives to improve the public's perception of the incarcerated veteran. The Quad Area Community Action Agency, a federally funded program designed to assist incarcerated veterans, offers assistance with reentry issues such as job skills, employment, transportation, and housing.

The inmate Jaycees man the "Children's Corner," instituted in cooperation with Catholic Community Services and C.U.R.E. (Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants) to provide books and coloring materials for children who visit inmates.

DCI has a leadership role in the Department's Prison Ministry Task Force, a group comprised of agency staff and members of the faith-based community outside the gates. The task force seeks to create a network of faith-based service providers to focus on pre-release preparation, reentry issues, and mentoring.

DCI established a cemetery on the grounds of East Louisiana State Hospital to provide decent, denomination-specific religious burials for destitute offenders.

**ELAYN HUNT CORRECTIONAL CENTER (EHCC)**

P. O. Box 174

St. Gabriel, LA 70776 (225) 642-3306

Warden: Cornel Hubert

Opened: 1979

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1993

EHCC houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 2089

**Education at EHCC:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education, GED preparation, ACT Exam Preparation, College Correspondence Courses, and Employability/Job Search Skills.

Vocational Training includes Air Conditioning and Refrigeration, Automotive Technology, Carpentry, Computer Specialist Training, Culinary Arts/Serv-Safe, Outdoor Power Equipment Technology, and Welding.

During FY 2004-05, 41 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 382 students completed Adult Basic Education, 82 earned a GED, and 456 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Special units:**

The Hunt Reception and Diagnostic Center (HRDC) handles intake and classification for males entering the state system from the southern half of the state.

A special section in HRDC performs time computation and classification functions—including transfers—for males sentenced from parishes in the southern part of the state and manages the files of state inmates housed in State Police Barracks and in parish facilities, local jails, and work release centers in the southern half of the state as well as those sent from southern parishes to out-of-state jurisdictions.

IMPACT (Intensive Motivational Program of Alternative Correctional Treatment) was established at EHCC in 1987. Often referred to as “the boot camp program,” it consists of a minimum of 180 days in a highly regimented, tightly structured treatment program operating within a military model and is followed by a period of intensive parole supervision. The IMPACT dormitory can accommodate up to 200 inmates. IMPACT inmates are a highly visible part of EHCC’s public service effort. IMPACT was recognized in 1998 as an ACA “Best Practice.”

The Hunt Special Unit (HSU) houses inmates with acute mental health problems.

EHCC continues to operate a unit for post-Katrina arrestees from Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes.

**Program notes:**

EHCC is equipped to house male inmates with serious or chronic mental health/medical problems and those requiring protective custody. EHCC has a disciplinary adjustment program for maximum custody inmates and a behavioral adjustment program for inmates with co-existing disciplinary and mental health issues.

EHCC conducts an HIV peer counseling program for inmates entering the system through HRDC and offers a Hospice program wherein inmates are trained to work under staff supervision with other, terminally ill inmates and their families.

EHCC officers provide security staffing, maintenance, and other support for the Headquarters compound in Baton Rouge.

EHCC circulates a monthly employee newsletter (the *Elayn Hunt Correctional Center News*) to promote communication among staff at all levels.

EHCC offers “Keeping Kids from Incarceration” tours as a means of educating at-risk juveniles about prison life and provides additional educational tours for other school and youth groups.

For eleven years in a row EHCC has won the Most Outstanding Governmental Agency Award from Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center Blood Bank. Every year staff donate generously to the Capital Area United Way.

**J. LEVY DABADIE CORRECTIONAL CENTER (DCC)**

1453 15th Street  
Pineville, LA 71360 (318) 640-0351  
Warden: T. W. Thompson

Opened: 1970  
Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1992  
DCC houses Minimum custody inmates.  
Operational capacity in 2005: 500

Education at DCC:

Literacy, Adult Basic Education, SSD #1 and GED preparation.  
Vocational training includes horticulture through the Youthful Offender Grant program.

During FY 2004-05, 39 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 192 students completed Adult Basic Education, 54 earned a GED, and 61 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

DCC (previously Work Training Facility North) is a minimum custody facility adjacent to the Louisiana National Guard base at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. About 200 inmates work to maintain the physical plant and support other operations of the Guard. Other inmates perform work for about a dozen other federal, state, parish, and local public agencies.

DCC is the Department's transportation hub for transfers between the northern and southern regions of the state. Every Monday hundreds of inmates are processed through the gates, headed to or from the Wade Reception and Diagnostic Center in Keithville and the Hunt Reception and Diagnostic Center in St. Gabriel and from local facilities to one of the two reception centers. During calendar 2004 more than 2900 inmates moved through the hub.

DCC is one of two regular Parole Board video conference sites. Using DCC's video conferencing capabilities, a panel of the board sits on site to conduct hearings with inmates at other videoconference sites in prisons throughout the state.

DCC officers help maintain the secure ward in the Huey P. Long Regional Medical Center in Pineville, where inmates are sent for scheduled appointments with medical specialists.

Two 85-bed honor dorms are available as an incentive for inmates to improve

behavior and maintain exemplary conduct and work records. Honor dorm residents are allowed added privileges, such as access to outdoor cooking and picnic facilities with approved visitors and first access to meals and other activities.

Upon request of the community, carefully selected inmates, accompanied by staff, are allowed to speak to youth groups in schools and churches. They also participate in the annual Boy Scouts of America Drug Seminar. Comments are directed toward impressing upon youth the possible consequences of alcohol and drug use and abuse.

An Inmate Welfare Council, composed of selected inmates representing various inmate interests, meets monthly with staff to discuss inmate issues and recommend ways in which Inmate Welfare monies should be spent.

**LOUISIANA CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN (LCIW)**

P. O. Box 26

St. Gabriel, LA 70776 (225) 642-5529

Warden: Johnnie W. Jones

Opened: 1961

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1993

LCIW houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1020

**Education at LCIW:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Information Systems Technology, Custom Sewing, Upholstery, Culinary Arts, and Horticulture.

During FY 2004-05, 75 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 28 students completed Adult Basic Education, 77 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded. (LCIW did not have access to a GED Administrator during FY 2004-05.)

**Special units:**

Because LCIW is the only state prison for females, the institution has designated space for new offender intake, Death Row, IMPACT (boot camp), and residential substance abuse treatment.

IMPACT participants at LCIW live together on a wing at the prison and are transported daily to the IMPACT unit at EHCC.

LCIW offers a twelve-week program of professionally facilitated education and therapy groups for inmates identified with significant chemical dependency issues. They are recommended as participants following admission and again prior to release.

LCIW's Faith- and Character-Based Dormitory program offers residents with good behavior records the possibility of living together in a designated portion of one dorm with special programming and one-on-one mentoring. The program cycle is six months. Participants who successfully complete it are assigned to other units on the compound to live as positive role models and to help other residents explore and work the chapters of The Purpose Driven Life.

LCIW continues to operate a unit for post-Katrina arrestees from Jefferson, Orleans, and St. Bernard Parishes.

**Program notes:**

LCIW provides security for females in wards at Earl K. Long Hospital in Baton Rouge.

Kairos is an important component of religious programming for many residents at LCIW. Twice a year, under the coordination of the chaplain, volunteers from different religious organizations lead a four-day retreat on institutional grounds. These events are supported by monthly Kairos reunions and weekly prayer sessions.

LCIW offers the Program for Caring Parents, initiated as a way to create meaningful interaction between children and their incarcerated mothers or grandmothers. Medium and minimum custody inmates who qualify for the program receive extended visiting hours and the opportunity for their children (ages 10 and younger) to be on institutional grounds for a total of eight hours over a weekend.

A Children's Christmas Extravaganza is held annually for inmates' children (10 years old or younger). Each year at Easter, there is a Children's Day celebration, which again opens the facility to inmates' children ten and younger. Every year LCIW employees sponsor "Ladies Day," which features games, food, dancing, and other activities for inmates.

Staff and inmates join to host an annual Christmas party for residents of the Louisiana School for the Visually Impaired.

Alcoholics Anonymous/12 Step, Narcotics Anonymous/12 Step, AL-ANON, and Survivors of Domestic Violence groups are facilitated by volunteers after regular work hours each week. A Sexual Trauma Resolution therapy group is also available, and inmates can participate in a volunteer-directed drama club.

## **LOUISIANA STATE PENITENTIARY (LSP)**

General Delivery

Angola, LA 70712 (225) 655-4411

Warden: Burl Cain

Opened: 1901

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1994

LSP houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 5108

### **Education at LSP:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Welding, Carpentry, Culinary Arts, Graphic Arts, and Horticulture.

Angola Bible College: established in 1995 with the help of the Judson Association of the Louisiana Southern Baptists as an extension of the accredited New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; offers two-year and four-year degrees, with the goal of further educating leaders and pastors among the inmate population. (Warden Cain often travels to other states to support and advise regarding faith-based, private donation educational opportunities for inmates.)

On-the-job-training: Through their work assignments, inmates learn a number of skills, including food preparation, welding, plumbing, carpentry, masonry, air conditioning and refrigeration, small engine repair, body and fender work, laundry operations, husbandry, and hospital orderly skills.

During FY 2004-05, 105 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 0 students completed Adult Basic Education, 46 earned a GED, and 76 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

### **Special units:**

Death Row houses inmates sentenced by the courts to die by lethal injection. More than 80 inmates are presently on death row.

The R. E. Barrow Treatment Center is a fully staffed medical facility; its treatment capacity is enhanced through telemedicine.

The David C. Knapps Training Academy is Basic Training site for many of the new correctional officers in the state system and for Angola's own extensive in-service training program.



**Program notes:**

The 18,000 acre Louisiana State Penitentiary is home to more than 5000 inmates, most sentenced to life. The average length of sentence for an Angola inmate (with life calculated at 99 years) is 88 years. An estimated 95 percent of the population is likely never to be released.

The majority of inmates at Angola do not live in cell blocks but in dormitories. Enabling inmates of all ages and with long sentences to live this way encourages cooperation and healthy peer relationships.

Once known as “the bloodiest prison in America,” Angola now offers programs and services that emphasize and encourage “moral rehabilitation,” a shift from selfish behavior to demonstration of care and compassion for others.

The prison’s forty inmate organizations sell food concessions at approved events then donate funds to missionaries and contribute to prison-related causes like purchase of funeral wreaths for graves, advertisements for clemency application notices for indigent offenders, and recreational equipment.

Graduates of the Angola Bible College are assigned as inmate ministers and some have received status reductions to allow their transfer to other state prisons as inmate missionaries working under the supervision of the prison’s chaplain.

Inmates with limited duty statuses are trained in suicide prevention and assigned to tier walker positions in cell block areas. Other inmates receive CPR training as a way of supporting and extending the reach of the prison’s health care workers, buying time until EMTs arrive.

LSP offers a certified Hospice, which the National Prison Hospice Foundation has cited as a model. Inmates serve as Hospice volunteers, working with interdisciplinary prison staff to provide dignified end-of-life care to other inmates with less than six months to live.

If an inmate’s family is unable to transport him for burial, he is buried in Angola’s Point Look Out Cemetery. Ceremonies are formal and dignified; inmates who have known the deceased are included in the wake and funeral services.

New programs offer inmates additional opportunities to positively and safely affect society from behind bars: Victim-Offender Dialogue (a victim-initiated process that enables offenders to meet directly with persons they have injured), Wheels for the World (inmates repair wheel chairs for third world countries), One Day with Dad (inmates visit with their children in a less restrictive setting than is usually available), and Pathways to Hope (inmates train service dogs for persons with disabilities).

KLSP, an FCC-licensed radio station on prison grounds and a Moody Broadcasting affiliate, offers 24-hour religious programming.

Six issues of *The Angolite* news magazine are published annually by Angola inmates .

The Angola Rodeo, held every Sunday in October and one week end in April, brings thousands of visitors to the penitentiary.

The Louisiana State Penitentiary Museum, located just outside the prison's main gate, offers artifacts and displays portraying the prison's past and its evolution into the present.

Angola is home to more than 600 "free people," representing the prison's emergency response personnel and their families. Staff have access to ball fields, a tennis court, a swimming pool, a walking track, and a nine-hole public golf course named *Prison View*.

**C. PAUL PHELPS CORRECTIONAL CENTER (PCC)**

P. O. Box 1056

DeQuincy, LA 70633 (337) 786-7963

Acting Warden: Bobby Tanner

Opened: 1958

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1994

PCC houses Medium and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 860

Education at PCC:

Literacy, Special Education, Adult Basic Education and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Welding, Automotive Technology, Collision Repair, and Industrial Sewing.

During FY 2004-05, 9 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 0 students completed Adult Basic Education, 20 earned a GED, and 27 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

PCC is the second oldest state prison facility in Louisiana.

Since PCC's chapel opened in December 2001, approximately 400 volunteers from 41 organizations regularly come into the prison to minister to all faiths. Religious programs are available every night of the week; most months see two or three revivals. Some volunteers arrive early for services to visit informally with inmates. Many donate religious materials. The Gideons donate bibles. The chaplain's office offers a wide range of faith-based study programs, including the 40 Days of Purpose, Knowing and Doing the Will of God, and Making Peace with Your Past.

The PCC Automotive Program is recognized as a certified testing site for ASC (Automotive Service Excellence), a certification that enhances inmates' ability to be employed as mechanics upon their release from prison. The course instructor from Sowela Technical College works closely with prison classification staff to set up testing.

PCC's Becoming a Responsible Adult (BARA) is an in-depth, 14-week training program, conducted by the Southwest Louisiana AIDS Council to help prevent sexually transmitted diseases and promote responsible sexual behavior. Some inmates are trained as HIV Peer Facilitators and enhance program impact by making presentations during new-inmate orientation, pre-release preparation, and events sponsored by inmate organizations. Ongoing education helps facilitators keep their knowledge current.

PCC conducts two clinics through the Department's Telemedicine Program: a monthly HIV clinic with W. O. Moss Regional Medical Center and a dermatology clinic, as needed, with LSU Medical Center. Telemedicine also enables PCC nurses to get quality training and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) while remaining on the job site.

As directed by House Resolution 137 of 2004, PCC piloted a program designed to evaluate the impact of canteen food restrictions on insulin-dependent diabetics. Within the first week blood sugar among the experimental group ran lower and, for some, within normal ranges. Over time weight loss was noted. The pilot was judged a success: inmates learned they could control their disease and were also helped to understand the link between that control, better health, and a longer life.

PCC offers a program called Boyz to Men, which seeks to engage young offenders entering the prison system and involve them in positive programming with peer support before they become institutionalized.

PCC developed the CALL (Computer Assisted Learning Lessons) program in August 2004. It utilizes a network of fifteen computers equipped with educational software, which helps students acquire and increase skills needed to achieve a GED. Progress toward the achievement of the GED is assessed by quarterly administration of the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE).

Inmate involvement in the community is encouraged. Selected inmates are allowed to speak to community and college groups concerning drugs and alcohol use and to assist annually with the Railroad Days Festival in DeQuincy and other special community projects.

The PCC Jaycees are Partners in Education with Singer High School. The group participates in the "Adopt a Highway" program and keeps up the highway between the school and the prison. Annually, since 1998, the Jaycees have donated a \$100 scholarship for a graduating senior. The Jaycees also collect toys for inmates' children who visit during the Christmas holidays and collect canned goods for community programs in the area. The American Red Cross in Lake Charles has called on the club for assistance during emergencies.

An Honor Cottage, located in one of the original dormitories of the prison, houses inmates who earn special privileges and individual rooms by good conduct and good work records.

**WASHINGTON CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE (WCI)**

27268 Highway 21

Angie, LA 70426 (985) 986-5000

Acting Warden: Jim Rogers

Opened: 1983

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1993

WCI houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1066

**Education at WCI:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education/GED preparation, and Job Skills  
Education Program (JSEP).

Vocational Training includes Auto Mechanics and Welding.

During FY 2004-05, 96 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 11 students completed Adult Basic Education, 38 earned a GED, and 96 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

Specially trained WCI officers and their dogs assist local law enforcement in searching for escaped fugitives and lost persons and conduct contraband searches in parish jails and area schools. They provide security and crowd control for public events like the Bogalusa and New Orleans Mardi Gras parades, the Sugar Bowl and Super Bowl, and the Washington Parish Free Fair.

Inmate work crews from WCI help string lights for Bogalusa's Cassidy Park Christmas display; perform year-round maintenance, repairs, and construction at the Washington Parish Fair Grounds in Franklinton; perform landscaping and grounds keeping on city property in Bogalusa; prepare the site of the area Campfire Council's summer camp; and perform construction and maintenance projects at the Louisiana Technical College, Sullivan Campus.

Grant monies allow WCI to offer a small engine repair class, which meets on Saturdays and includes testing for national certification. The River Parish Community College extension program enables qualified offenders to work toward an Associate Degree with a concentration in either business or religion. To earn a degree, students must complete 64 credit hours; all classes are transferable to other Louisiana state institutions of higher learning.

Other special educational opportunities include a law class, offered on Saturdays to train prospective inmate legal counsels and to help inmates better understand their own legal work; a 13-week, 26-session faith-based education course, which helps inmates apply biblical teachings to daily life; and a job

skills training class, designed to remediate academic deficiencies and help those nearing release with skills like resume writing and job interviews.

Two or three activities are held every night for different faith-based groups; weekly some of the prison's more than 800 approved volunteers visit down the walk, offering prayers and encouragement, especially for inmates on cell confinement.

Understanding that children of incarcerated parents often suffer low self-esteem linked to uncertainty surrounding the incarcerated parent's love, WCI created "One Day with God," a program enabling fathers and children to spend a day together at the prison—having fun, worshiping, and getting to know one another better. The children leave, reassured of their fathers' love and holding memories that sustain them (and their fathers) in lonely times.

"Project Angel Tree," sponsored by Prison Fellowship and supported by local churches, provides Christmas gifts for the children of inmates. Inmates complete a request form with their children's names and addresses; the children are "adopted" by local congregations.

Other special inmate programs are offered at WCI. Crimeoholics helps inmates combat the likelihood of return to prison by teaching self-awareness and life styles that offer an alternative to crime. The Impulse Control Program is offered inmates in the Working Cellblock to assist them in finding alternatives to violence and anger as responses to high stress situations.

Inmate peer educators, trained by the American Red Cross, provide information about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases to the population.

The Compassionate Care Program provides dying inmates support and services similar to those provided by hospice. Trained inmate volunteers make bedside visits and assist with reading, writing letters, and basic activities of daily living.

A "Children's Corner" in the facility's visiting room enables inmates to interact more intimately with their children. The carpeted area features small tables and chairs and walls adorned with popular cartoon characters. Books are available for inmates to read to the children who visit them.

WCI's Jaycees, Toastmasters, and Vets Incarcerated group regularly raise money for nonprofit organizations and facility activities. The Toastmasters are currently implementing a Culinary Class at the prison. Vets Incarcerated donated colors and coloring books to children who visited during the Christmas holidays and Christmas cards for inmates to send to family and friends. The club sometimes pays for weekend movie rentals and provided silk flowers for mothers who visited on the weekend of Mother's Day.

**WINN CORRECTIONAL CENTER (WNC)**

Gum Springs Road  
Highway 560, Box 1260  
Winnfield, LA 71483-1260 (318) 628-3971  
Warden: Timothy D. Wilkinson

Opened: 1990

Originally accredited by American Correctional Association: 1991

WNC houses Maximum, Medium, and Minimum custody inmates.

Operational capacity in 2005: 1461

**Education at WNC:**

Literacy, Adult Basic Education, ESL (English as second language), and GED preparation.

Vocational Training includes Auto Body Repair, Basic Auto Services, Computerized Informational Practice, Culinary Arts, Heating-Ventilation and Air Conditioning, Horticulture, Printing Operations, and Janitorial and Sanitation Services.

Project Metamorphosis materials are taught for about an hour and a half each Wednesday in all academic and vo-tech classes.

During FY 2004-05, 26 literacy students advanced to the ABE/GED program, 60 students completed Adult Basic Education, 71 earned a GED, and 230 vocational certificates/diplomas were awarded.

**Program notes:**

WNC, managed by Corrections Corporation of America, was the first privately managed prison in Louisiana and the first privately managed medium-security prison in the United States.

WNC is site of the state's only Prison Industry Enhancement (PIE) program in which inmates work for actual wages in a garment factory at the prison producing consumer safety apparel.

Visiting days feature "Story Time," a reading program created to allow and encourage inmate fathers to read to their children.

"Just Say No to Drugs or Else" is a nationally recognized drug awareness program developed in 1994 by WNC staff. Taking a "hard hitting approach to real life," the program depicts life on the streets, gangs, and prison. It has held the attention of more than 120,000 children and young adults and has been acclaimed on CNN, ABC, NBC, and CBS and in the Jaycee Magazine International.

The CCA/Winn Jaycees, one of the state's outstanding institutional chapters, has won national attention for participation in "Just Say No to Drugs or Else." Other club activities include drives to benefit the Louisiana Special Olympics, Turning Point Battered Women's Shelter, Muscular Dystrophy, and the March of Dimes—activities which are supported by other inmates, staff, and administration as well as public officials and law enforcement officers.

Corrections Corporation of America in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Labor offers an annual Resource Fair. The fair provides an opportunity for inmates who are releasing to network with employers in an effort to successfully reenter their communities.

As part of the institution's HIV Peer Educator Program, inmates arriving at and discharging from WNC receive a class on prevention and transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. Peer educators receive training from the American Red Cross and the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals.

Inmates releasing from WNC may request assistance from the Pre-release Coordinator in obtaining a job interview. The coordinator follows up after the inmate's release to determine whether the inmate attended the interview and whether he got the job. Since the start of the program in 2000, more than 400 inmates who requested job assistance have been hired.